

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action of June 24, 2003, Claims 1-6, 9-11, 22-24, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cardoza et al., U.S. Patent 5,630,049 ("Cardoza et al."); Claims 7, 8, 12-21, 27, 31, and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, Mastering Windows 98 ("Cowart"); and Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cardoza et al.

Claims 1-3 and 5-31 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 32-37 have been canceled.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-11, 22-24, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the additional functions of "(a) detecting a debug request initiated by a user of a client computer," and "(b) transmitting said debug request to a server computer over the Internet."

Although Cardoza et al.'s target computer arguably may perform similar functions as Applicants' client computer as claimed in (c) through (g) of amended Claim 1, no reasonable argument may be made for Cardoza et al.'s target computer performing the functions as Applicants' client computer as claimed in (a) and (b) of amended Claim 1.

In Applicants' method, it is the user of the client computer (i.e., the computer having the application program to be debugged) that initiates the debug session with the server computer (i.e., the computer having the debug program). In contrast, this procedure is reversed as described in Cardoza et al. In Cardoza et al., it is the user of the host computer (i.e., the computer having the debug program) that initiates the debug session with the target computer (i.e., the computer having the program to be debugged). See, e.g., Col. 18, line 61 to Col. 20, line 55. The fact that Applicants' and Cardoza et al.'s usage of the terms "server" and "client" are reversed should not confuse this issue.¹

The difference cited above regarding who initiates the debug session is not an arbitrary matter. In Applicants' preferred use of the method, the user of the client computer is a customer of the application program seeking technical assistance from the vendor of the application program. See, e.g., page 1, background section. This point (i.e., that the program being debugged is an application program) is expressly stated in functions (e) and (g) of amended Claim 1. It is therefore convenient and far more desirable from a customer's viewpoint, that the customer initiates the debug session. As anyone who has tried to contact a real, live vendor technical support person can attest to, the prospect of reaching such a person by phone and getting that person to initiate a debug session is not a pleasant prospect.

¹ Applicants refer to the computer having the debug program as the "server" (30), and the computer having the application program that is to be debugged as the "client" (10). See, e.g., FIG. 1 and page 6, bottom paragraph. Conversely, Cardoza et al. refer to the computer having the debug program as the host or "client" (10), and the computer having the operating system that is to be debugged as the target or "server" (12). See, e.g., Fig. 3 and Col. 5, lines 3-60.

In Cardoza et al., its debug process is used in a substantially different situation. First of all, the program being debugged in Cardoza et al. is not merely an application program running on the target computer, it is the operating system of the target computer. See, e.g., Col. 4, lines 13-27. Obviously, if the operating system of the target computer needs to be debugged, then it may not even be possible for a user of the target computer to initiate the debug session. In that situation, booting up the target operating system and placing it in a polling mode so that it waits for the host computer to establish a network connection may be all that it is capable of doing. See, e.g., Col. 18, lines 61-64. Therefore, Cardoza et al. not only does not teach newly added functions (a) and (b) to amended Claim 1, it does not even suggest such functions.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as well as 35 U.S.C. 103, over Cardoza et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., since they depend from Claim 1, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Further, Claim 3 states that "said diagnostic sequence is preprogrammed into said debug program," and Cardoza et al. does not teach a preprogrammed diagnostic sequence. What Cardoza et al. teaches is a user of its host computer manually inputting debug commands. See, e.g., Col. 22, lines 14-28. This is similar to the process claimed in Claim 2.

Also, with respect to Claims 5 and 6, Cardoza et al. teaches the passing of a password from the host computer (i.e., the computer having the debug program) to the target computer (i.e., the computer having the program to be debugged). See, e.g., Col. 20, lines 20-32. This information, however, is being passed in an opposite direction than that claimed in Claims 5 and 6. In Claim 5, identifications of the application program and the client computer is being passed to the server (i.e., the computer having the debug program), and in Claim 6, the user identification and password is also being passed to the server (i.e., the computer having the debug program).

Claim 9 has also been amended to include the additional functions of "(a) detecting a debug request initiated by a user of a client computer," and "(b) transmitting said debug request to a server computer over the Internet."

Accordingly, since Claim 9 is the corresponding apparatus claim to the method claimed in Claim 1, Claim 9 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Claims 10-11 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., since they depend from Claim 9, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 9.

Further, like Claim 3, Claim 11 also states that "said diagnostic sequence is preprogrammed into said debug program," and therefore, Claim 11 is further believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for the additional reasons stated in reference to Claim 3.

Claim 22 claims the function of "(a) receiving a request from a client computer over the Internet to debug an application program of said client computer," and such a function is neither taught nor suggested by Cardoza et al. for the same reasons as stated in reference to functions (a) and (b) of amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, since Claim 22 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Claims 23-24 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., since they depend from Claim 22, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 22.

Further, similar to Claim 3, Claim 24 also states that "said diagnostic sequence is preprogrammed into a debug program of a server computer," and therefore, Claim 24 is further believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for the additional reasons stated in reference to Claim 3.

Since Claim 28 is the corresponding apparatus claim to the method claimed in Claim 22, Claim 28 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 22.

Claims 29-30 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Cardoza et al., since they depend from Claim 28, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 28.

Further, like Claim 24, Claim 30 also states that "said diagnostic sequence is preprogrammed into said debug program," and therefore, Claim 30 is further believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for the additional reasons stated in reference to Claim 24.

2. Rejection of Claims 7, 8, 12-21, 27, 31, and 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 7 includes "(h) generating a graphics file including pixel information for a graphics image displayed on a display screen of said client computer," and such a function is neither taught nor suggested by either Cardoza et al. or Cowart, alone or in combination.

In particular, in reference to Cowart, Cowart teaches a whiteboard feature that can be used to draw a picture that other people in a conference can see. One can paste onto the whiteboard from another application, or copy an active window, or copy any portion of the screen and drop it into the whiteboard. The program, however, is object-oriented

(versus pixel-oriented). Because it is object-oriented, one can move and manipulate the contents by clicking and dragging with the mouse. See, e.g., page 18, first paragraph of Whiteboard section of Cowart for all of the above points.

Accordingly, Cowart does not teach “(h) generating a graphics file including pixel information for a graphics image displayed on a display screen of said client computer,” because Cowart teaches a whiteboard that is object-oriented (versus pixel-oriented).

In addition, Claim 7 has been amended so that the transmitting of the graphics file in function (i) is done “automatically,” and such a function is neither taught nor suggested by either Cardoza et al. or Cowart, alone or in combination.

In particular, Cowart teaches a whiteboard feature in which one can move and manipulate the contents by clicking and dragging with the mouse. This is a manual procedure that must be performed by a user of the computer, it is not a function that is performed automatically as claimed in function (i) of amended Claim 7.

Accordingly, Claim 7 is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, for all of the foregoing reasons, as well as the fact that it depends from Claim 1, and as such, is also believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Claim 8 is also believed to patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, since it depends from Claim 7, and as such, is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 7.

Since Claim 12, as amended, is essentially the corresponding apparatus claim to the method claimed in Claim 7, Claim 12 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 7.

Claim 13 is also believed to patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, since it depends from Claim 12, and as such, is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 12.

Since Claim 14, as amended, includes functions (d) and (e) which are essentially the same as functions (h) and (i) of Claim 7, Claim 14 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 7.

Claims 15-19 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, since they depend from Claim 14, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 14. Further, Claims 18 and 19 are also believed to be patentable for similar reasons as stated in reference to Claims 5 and 6.

Since Claim 20, as amended, is essentially the corresponding apparatus claim to the method claimed in Claim 14, Claim 20 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 14.

Claim 21 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, since it depends from Claim 20, and as such, is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 20.

Claim 27 includes "(f) receiving a graphics file including pixel information for a graphics image displayed on a display screen of said client computer in response to said action," and such a function is neither taught nor suggested by either Cardoza et al. or Cowart, alone or in combination, for essentially the same reasons as stated in reference to function (h) of Claim 7.

Accordingly, Claim 27 is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to function (h) of Claim 7, as well as the fact that it depends from Claim 22, and as such, is also believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 22.

Since Claim 31 is essentially the corresponding apparatus claim to the method claimed in Claim 27, Claim 31 is also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., and further in view of Cowart, for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 27, as well as the fact that it depends from Claim 28, and as such, is also believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 28.

Claims 32-37 have been canceled.

3. Rejection of Claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 25 and 26 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Cardoza et al., since they depend from Claim 22, and as such, is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 22, as well as relevant reasons stated in reference to Claim 5.

Reconsideration of the claims is requested for the reasons stated herein, and notice of their allowance earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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